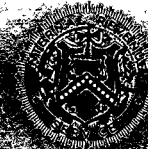


INDUSTRY CIRCULAR

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE
ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO TAX DIVISION



WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Industry Circular No. 58-20

August 19, 1958

REMOVING EXCESS COLOR FROM WHITE WINES

Proprietors of bonded wineries
and bonded wine cellars:

Purpose. The purpose of this industry circular is to announce an experimental study for removing excess color from white wines, other than vermouth, and the conditions to be met by winemakers desiring to participate.

Background. Industry Circular No. 57-28, dated September 6, 1957, notified proprietors of bonded wineries and bonded wine cellars that in the production of special natural wines the use of activated carbon or other filtering aids and devices in the treatment of such wines (or the wine-producing material) indicated that color and other characteristics of the wine may have been removed. Accordingly, a minimum color of not less than 1.0 Lovibond in a one-half inch cell was established unless it was shown that the requirements of regulations have been complied with in all respects. Subsequent to the issuance of the Circular, members of the wine industry represented to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division that white wines of a color of less than 1.0 Lovibond scale could be achieved in regular wine production procedures and that the treatment of white wine with activated carbon to remove excess color to a degree of less than 1.0 Lovibond scale would not remove color or other characteristics of the wine to any extent prohibited by law.

Experimental study. In order to determine a practical application of 26 CFR 240.527 in regard to the removal of excess color from such white wines with the use of activated carbon, it has been decided that the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division will engage in an experimental study jointly with the wine industry, effective immediately, and to expire June 30, 1959. On or before June 30, 1959, the data obtained from the study will be correlated and evaluated by the Division.

Procedure. Any proprietor desiring to engage in this experiment should file with his assistant regional commissioner, in duplicate, an application for continuing authority to use activated carbon under 26 CFR 240.527. Such application should contain all information required by 26 CFR 240.527 and also:

- (a) Indicate the length of time that the carbon will be in contact with the wine.
- (b) State approximate temperature of wine during treatment.

- (c) Describe or explain any unusual factors of the treatment.
- (d) Explicitly specify the quantity of activated carbon to be used, such as 8 pounds per 1,000 gallons will be used, or 5 to 8 pounds per 1,000 gallons will be used.

A separate application for each batch of wine to be treated will not be required.

Samples. During the trial period, samples as needed will be taken both by the Government and by the proprietor for the purpose of determining the effect of the use of activated carbon and the amount of color removed, as well as for comparative tests of other characteristics of the wine.


Conditions. Proprietors participating in this experimental study shall conform with the following conditions:

1. Nine pounds of activated carbon per 1,000 gallons of wine, including any activated carbon used in the basic wine-producing material, is the absolute maximum which may be used.
2. Wine treated with activated carbon must have a color of not less than 0.6 Lovibond in a one-half inch cell; however, if a proprietor can achieve in regular production of wine a color of less than 0.6 Lovibond scale, without the use of carbon, such procedure may be properly followed.
3. The 0.6 Lovibond restriction applies whenever carbon is used on bonded winery premises; it would not apply to carbon treatment of wine spirits on distilling premises.
4. The proprietor must keep commercial records which shall show for each batch of wine or basic wine-producing material treated with carbon the exact details of such treatment including the kind of juice, by grape variety, and the kind of carbon used.
5. Where wine is treated under this experiment and is later transferred in bond, a notation will be made on Form 703 by the consignor and in the records of the consignee as to the quantity of activated carbon used for the treatment prior to shipment. A second treatment may be made if the total use of activated carbon does not exceed 9 pounds per 1,000 gallons of wine, i.e., if 5 pounds of activated carbon per 1,000 gallons were used in the first treatment, not more than 4 pounds of activated carbon per 1,000 gallons could be used in the second treatment.

Industry Circular No. 58-20

- 3 -

Inquiries. Inquiries concerning this industry circular should refer to its number and be addressed to the office of your assistant regional commissioner (alcohol and tobacco tax).


Dwight E. Avis,
Director, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division.

Note: During the period of the experiment Industry Circular No. 57-28 is superseded hereby.